

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:UNSC, AO, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA REQUEST FOR SC MEETING

1. USUN SEPTTEL REPORTS THAT ZAMBIA, WITH SUPPORT OF AFRICA GROUP, HAS ASKED FOR A MEETING OF THE SC ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 26. ZAMBIA WILL SEEK THE CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION INTO ZAMBIA.

2. AN SC MEETING, AND A ONE-SIDED CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT, COULD WELL SET BACK OUR EFFORTS AT IMPLEMENTING A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT. MOREOVER, WE SHOULD TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE WHAT WE HAVE CONVEYED TO THE ANGOLANS AND ZAIRIANS ABOUT THE NEED TO RESTRAIN SWAPO.
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KATIMO MULILO WILL NOT, IN ALL PROBABILITY, BE THE LAST INCIDENT, BUT IT IS CRUCIAL THAT SWAPO NOT REPEAT NOT UNDERTAKE ANOTHER MAJOR MILITARY ACTION. ACCORDINGLY, LUSAKA AND DAR SHOULD APPROACH THEIR GOVERNMENTS AT MOST SENIOR LEVEL POSSIBLE TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING:

--WE HAVE JUST LEARNED OF ZAMBIA'S DECISION TO ASK FOR

A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE INCIDENT ALONG THE NAMIBIAN/ZAMBIAN FRONTIER.

--WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR GREAT DISTRESS AT THAT INCIDENT, AND ESPECIALLY AT THE LOSS OF LIFE WHICH RESULTED; BUT AS YOUR GOVERNMENT IS AWARE, SWAPO BEARS AS MUCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSTIGATING THE EVENT AS SOUTH AFRICA DOES IN RESPONDING.

--WE CAN WELL APPRECIATE THE DESIRE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO JOIN IN A CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, BUT APPEAL TO YOU TO LOOK TO OUR LARGER AND MORE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT AN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A ONE-SIDED CONDEMNATION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL COULD HAVE TWO CONSEQUENCES:

-IT WILL REINFORCE THOSE IN SOUTH AFRICA WHO ARGUE AGAINST RESTRAINT AND FOR THE REJECTION OF A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT;

-IT WILL ENCOURAGE ELEMENTS IN SWAPO TO BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN BRING ABOUT AN EVENTUAL REJECTION OF THE NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT.

--FOR THESE REASONS, WE CAN SEE NOTHING WHICH CAN BE CONFIDENTIAL

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GAINED, AND MUCH WHICH CAN BE LOST BY PRESSING AHEAD FOR A CONDEMNATION RESOLUTION. INSTEAD, WE URGE THAT ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA TAKE THE LEADERSHIP IN ASKING THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ACT PROMPTLY TO ESTABLISH UNTAG, THUS AUTHORIZING A CEASEFIRE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF UN FORCES. THEY MIGHT ALSO URGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SUBMIT HIS PROPOSAL FOR A MANDATE PROMPTLY SO THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL CAN MEET AND ACT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

3. FOR USUN: SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF A RESOLUTION, AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO UNILATERAL CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA:

-- A CONDEMNATION OF "ACTS OF VIOLENCE."

-- A REQUEST THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL PROMPTLY SEND OBSERVERS TO BOTH SIDES OF THE FRONTIER TO ENSURE AGAINST A REPETITION OF HOSTILITIES.

-- A REQUEST THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL URGENTLY SUBMIT HIS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAMIBIA SETTLE-

MENT.

4. FOR LUSAKA AND DAR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UKUN IS
RECOMMENDING PARALLEL APPROACH. ACCORDINGLY, YOU
SHOULD COORDINATE WITH YOUR UK COUNTERPARTS IF
POSSIBLE.

CHRISTOPHER

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